United Nations A/57/354

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 August 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2002

Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (see annex), established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers the year 2002, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982.

* A/57/150.

** The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

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Annex

Report on the United Nations Population Award (2002)

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 Member States of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. On 5 December 1986, by its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award (resolution 36/201, annex), so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. On 26 May 1987, by its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

5. On 3 May 2000, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years, beginning in January 2001: Burundi, Cape Verde, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, the Netherlands and the Republic of Moldova. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director also acts as Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

6. On 3 May 2001, the Council elected Haiti to fill a postponed vacancy, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

7. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/201/B of 3 May 2001, the Council further postponed to a future session the election of two members from Asian States and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

8. On 10 May 2001, the Committee elected Haiti as Chairman., led by its Permanent Representative Pierre Lelong.

9. The Committee re-elected Haiti as Chairman of the Committee for 2002, with its new Permanent Representative Jean Claude Alexandre.

II. The 2002 United Nations Population Award

10. A total of 21 nominations for the 2002 United Nations Population Award were received from qualified nominators. Of these, 10 were for the individual category and 11 for the institutional category. In April 2002, within the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Dr. Kwasi Odoi-Agyarko (Ghana) in the individual category and

EngenderHealth (formerly AVSC International) in the institutional category as the laureates for 2002.

11. Dr. Odoi-Agyarko was selected for his outstanding leadership and achievements in the field of reproductive health in Ghana. He worked to increase male involvement in contraceptive use; he emphasized the importance of fostering effective project management systems and especially project leadership; he pushed forward the concept of community-based reproductive health services; and he had a significant impact on raising awareness of the problem of female circumcision in Ghana. Dr. Odoi-Agyarko is the Executive Director of the Rural Help Integrated project in the Upper East Region of Ghana, which is one of the poorest and least accessible regions of the country. Rural Help Integrated is a model project in Ghana and has received international attention for its scope, quality of work and results. It is a very innovative and culturally sensitive project that has already contributed a great deal to the field of population and reproductive health, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Odoi-Agyarko.

12. EngenderHealth was selected for its important global contributions in providing access to facility-based, quality family planning and related reproductive health service delivery in resource-poor settings of the world. Since 1943, EngenderHealth, formerly known as AVSC International, has worked to ensure that American couples are able to choose surgical sterilization services and that these services are voluntary and safe. In 1973, it broadened the geographic scope of its work to the developing world, making it possible for cadres of trained medical staff to offer the most appropriate technologies for voluntary female sterilization and vasectomy at low cost in basic health facilities in rural areas.

III. Financial matters

13. As at 1 January 2002, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award had a total of $743,526. Interest income in 2001 was $20,548. Expenditures in 2001, including the prizes, totalled $47,906.